

West Australian Railscene e-Mag

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New BHPIO SD70MACe 4351 being hauled by GEXR as GMDX1004 at Stratford Ontario Canada on May 5th these locomotives built by EMCC at London Ont. are being positioned for export. Photo Bruce Douglas

Construction of the ARG AC class model C44aci locomotives at United Group Rail Broadmeadow is proceeding rapidly with AC4301 completed but not painted, AC4302 and AC4303 both completed and painted in ARG livery. AC4304 having cab fitted with final fit out under way. AC4305, AC4306 and AC4307 all without cabs have had engines and radiators fitted are in various stages of assembly inside erecting shed.

Static testing of AC4301 and AC4302 in the exterior test area at UGR Broadmeadow continues.

A TOC Waiver issued on April 30th allows for the operation of the AC class locomotives on ARTC tracks in NSW to facilitate testing and commissioning. AC class testing is also authorised in Narrabri area.



SCT005 runs 5056 wheat train through Thornlie on April 9th on the two track dual gauge Forrestfield Cockburn South line that then becomes a single bi-directional line to Kwinana. Photo Alex Mackay



The other SCT locomotive on hire to ARG is SCT014 that also works wheat trains here runs 2056 wheat train past 95km peg in a very dry Avon Valley at Toodyay on April 27th. Photo Alex Mackay



NJ1602 & DD2357 run 2305 empty woodchip wagons south through the dry grass at York on April 27th with the fast loader CBH York wheat bin in the background. Photo Alex Mackay

The first three BHPBIO SD70MACe of the nine locomotives on order from EMCC and marked EMD1000, EMD1001 and EMD1002 as are under heavy plastic sheeting for the voyage to Port Hedland were delivered by GEXR to London East Ont. Canada on May 3rd. BT [Ca]

DAZ1903 hauling dead attached DAZ1904, AB1502 and AB1501 [all four locomotives in different colour schemes] and empty 19 XW wheat wagons ran from West Merredin via Bruce Rock, Corrigin, Yilliminning, Narrogin to Avon Yard on April 26th. Two DAZ and 19 XW wagons remain in use at West Merredin. AT

Transperth shunter MA1862 ran to Midland on May 5th and collected EMU set #82 that had been converted to narrow gauge and fitted with its power bogies hauling it to Claisebrook. EMU set #82 has now been hauled by another EMU to Nowergup depot for commissioning.

There are now three new EMU sets of the 15 sets on order, being 20% of them delivered as yet none of them have entered service. Recent press reports indicate these new EMU's will enter service in May but they were also promised to be in service in March.

A rake of green AOPY iron ore wagons were on rear of 2430 empty sulphur train on May 5th that were detached at Avon Yard Northam joining others already stowed there. The AOPY wagons were originally old A N coal wagons used on Leigh Creek coal trains that were cut down and bought to Esperance to allow for rapid expansion of the iron ore traffic. With more new WOE ore cars entering traffic these wagons are being withdrawn as they are not that suitable iron ore haulage, having weaker drawgear and can be a problem when they are run through the rotary tipper.



Shut down AC4302 painted in ARG livery and unpainted AC4301 idling in the exterior test area of United Group Rail plant at Broadmeadow on May 3rd. Photo Brad Coulter

GEXR in Canada bought the last of the BHPBIO SD70MACel/c through Stratford Ontario in Canada on the run to CN Mac yard at Toronto May 8th. BD [Ca]

Speno RR24M30 rail grinder is stabled at southern end of Cockburn Central stabling sidings and is involved in after midnight rail grinding on Southern Suburbs Railway.

In Keating Yard at junction of Lakeshore Boulevard and Don Roadway in Toronto on morning of May 9th were five BHPBIO SD70MACel/c locomotives stabled, tarped ready for shipping to Port Hedland. The other four of this final nine locomotive order are at quayside on the Toronto docks. Jumbo shipping heavy lift ship MV Jumbo Vision is tied up by the Eastern Gap ready to commence loading. BL [Ca]

END page four of four
